

Intervention: Professional education

Finding: Insufficient evidence to determine effectiveness

Potential partners to undertake the intervention:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nonprofits or local coalitions | <input type="checkbox"/> Businesses or labor organizations |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Schools or universities | <input type="checkbox"/> Media |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Health care providers | <input type="checkbox"/> Local public health departments |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State public health departments | <input type="checkbox"/> Policymakers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitals, clinics or managed care organizations | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |

Background:

Professional education includes any programs that improve the knowledge, skills, attitudes, or behaviors of health care providers on the importance of breastfeeding, the physiology and management of lactation, or counseling related to breastfeeding.

Findings from the systematic reviews:

Systematic reviews found that professional education interventions alone do not directly improve initiation rates or duration of breastfeeding.

Limitations/Comments:

The recommendations in this priority area are largely informed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Guide to Breastfeeding Interventions. Although the CDC report draws heavily on the reviews of the Cochrane Collaboration, a well-respected source of research in public health, its methodology for categorizing interventions is not outlined explicitly.

References:

Shealy KR, Li R, Benton-Davis S, Grummer-Strawn LM. *The CDC Guide to Breastfeeding Interventions*. Atlanta: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2005. Available online at: http://www.cdc.gov/breastfeeding/pdf/breastfeeding_interventions.pdf